

Koenings' Reeded Edge Half Newsletter #17

September 15, 2020

Dear Reeded Edge Half Collector:

Most of you indicated an interest in Reeded Edge Halves when you purchased my book "REEDED EDGE HALF DOLLARS 1836 TO 1839, R-4 to R-8 DIE VARIETIES". Others were added to my list of interested collectors after I announced my "38 Most Common Die Marriages" would be emailed once a month, starting in August, 2019 at the ANA Coin Show in Chicago.

Before I discuss the next item on the "38 Most Common Die Marriages", I wish to **warn** everyone about a problem that occurred last month on ebay.

THE 14TH+ 1838 GR-5 WAS DISCOVERED ON EBAY ON AUGUST 11, 2020 BY JOHN D.

John D. of Chicago, paid \$300 plus shipping for an un-attributed 1838 GR-5 half dollar in a BUY-IT-NOW coin auction on ebay on August 11, 2020. John immediately sent payment to the seller and waited for a response from her. When by the following day, she hadn't provided a tracking number or respond with details of when she would send the coin, John contacted her at least 3 other times trying to get her to ship the coin. She said the delay was due to a problem accessing her Paypal account. Then on August 13th, John saw a message that she had unilaterally canceled the transaction and refunded his money. However, she said that she would send him the coin if he sent the money by Paypal to her sister's Paypal account. John, of course still wanted the coin, so he complied. Apparently, John received a refund from the first sale and filed a complaint with ebay about not sending the coin. On August 16, 2020, the seller re-listed the coin on ebay **using a different user name in a newly created account she had established**. This time the coin had a BUY-IT-NOW price of \$400. John has filed a dispute which is still pending with his credit card company to recover the second payment.

Another female person paid the \$400 plus shipping and later received the coin. Soon after, this person submitted the coin to PCGS and it came back PCGS VF30. On September 1, this same person contacted me and asked me what the coin was worth, that she didn't want it for her collection, so she would consider offers. She had supplied me with a photo of the coin after it was certified. It was obviously the same coin but now with clearer photos. She also referred me to a Coin Facts address where I could see the finest known 1838 GR-5 and that she had seen my 1838 NGC G6 coin on my website. I told her I wasn't interested in the coin but that I would contact a friend and ask him what he would pay.

When I contacted John, I emailed new photos of the now PCGS VF30 coin and suggested he offer \$600. **At first John was willing to consider purchasing the coin from the new owner.**

Meanwhile, I tried to discourage the new seller by giving her more information. I told her that in 2014, my 1838 GR-5 NGC G6 was the 5th known, at that time.

I also told her that today there are about 14+ known specimens of 1838 GR-5. I mentioned that my NGC G6 coin was the worst known, that a VF specimen was the 2nd worst known and that her PCGS VF30 coin was the **3rd worst known**. I also mentioned that I had purchase a PCGS XF45 specimen for my son that was the 4th worst specimen.

Later she offered me the coin for \$7,500 or she would take my NGC G-6 coin plus \$5,000. She told me she had dealt with die variety collectors before. She said that if it was an 1823 O-113 it would be worth over \$25,000. I told her no on both offers. She then told me she would have her daughter list it on ebay for \$10,000.



Photo of 1838 50C Obverse offered for \$300 in the ebay auction on August 11, 2020 and for \$400 in the ebay auction on August 16, 2020



Photo of 1838 50C Reverse offered for \$300 in the ebay auction on August 11, 2020 and for \$400 in the ebay auction on August 16, 2020.

I contacted W. David Pertins of JRCS and asked if this dealer was a member of JRCS. David told me she wasn't but that she had posted a coin in the JRCS Newsletter.

This dealer has been so devious and the original seller also very devious as she changed user names and used the obverse photo in the \$300 sale and used the reverse photo as the main photo in the \$400 sale. John and I wonder if the dealer contacted the seller after the \$300 sale and told the seller she would pay \$100 more for the coin if she canceled the sale and re-listed it for \$400.

If John or I see this coin (now PCGS VF30) in a Heritage Auction or on ebay, we will report the facts to both.

Although John, as a Concierge Member, had 5 conversations with eBay within four days, both before and after the seller cancelled his transaction, eBay was unwilling to step in on his behalf to protect his interests.

So if you see a PCGS VF30 1838 GR-5 on eBay, we suggest you ask the seller how it was obtained. Someday there may be another PCGS VF30 specimen.

One other fact, since the discovery coin, a NCS AU details 1838 JR-18 was sold in the Reiver Collection for \$373.75 as Lot 23435 in the Heritage Auction on January 28, 2006, there has never been an **attributed** 1838 GR-5 sold in a major coin auction.

38 Most Common Die Marriages (continued)

Last month, 1837 JR-14 was the featured die marriage. I have seen several specimens offered on ebay since last month's Newsletter #16. Although common, it would be fun to collect in different die stages. Next on the list is 1837 GR-15.

1837 GR-15

This die marriage is fairly scarce, listed as R-3 (201 to 500 known). It is composed of Obverse 11 and Reverse N (in Graham's book), both single use dies. Graham lists a census of 65, 65, 65, 64, 64, 63, 58, and 58, published in 2012. In my Reeded Edge Census reported in the November, 2018 J R Journal, I had: 63, 62, 50, 45, 45, 40, 40 and 30 reported by JRCS and Bust Half Nut members.

I personally haven't found a Prime or EDS of this die marriage. There were 8 specimens in MS listed in Heritage Auction Archives. All of them appeared to have full reverse dentils, although a few were slightly weak. Graham mentions that the reverse dentils will morph to nothing.

On the next 2 pages, you will see what are apparently Middle Die Stages (MDS) as they appear to have all of the attributes as listed by Graham.



1837 GR-15 NGC MS65 Obverse MDS (Photo courtesy of Heritage)

In the date, 7 is slightly higher than 183 and tilted slightly left. 7 shows recutting across the top of horizontal bar. Graham states that a Prime may exist. So, the date position and perhaps the lump near the foot on N1 on the reverse may be the only way to identify a Prime specimen. Graham mentions a die break from rim between Stars 13 and 12 and continuing to the rim near Star 8 and another break from Star 11 to the lowest curl (see circles above). He also mentions a clash on Liberty's chest (see circle above).

Jules Reiver listed this coin as 1837 JR-21 in his Variety Identification Manual.



1837 GR-15 NGC MS65 Reverse MDS (Photo courtesy of Heritage)

A line connects ball of the bottom loop of 5 to the upright above it (see above circle). Perhaps the easiest way to identify GR-15 's reverse is seeing the clash mark out from left wing (see above circle). There is a crack from the left wing tip to the rim and a lump to the right of the left foot of N that could help you identify this reverse. Crossbars 1 and 2 extend to the Second Outside Shield border on left. Graham also mentions one very thin line in upper right corner of shield.

A later die stage may have a die break from the bottom of T2 to the Eagle's beak. (very weak on the above coin).

Graham says later die stages will have the dentils morphing to nothing on the reverse.

Next month, in Newsletter #17, I will be showing photos and information on the 1837 GR-17 die marriage. It is rated R-1 (over 1,000 known). This die marriage is interesting as later die stages show a triple clashing on the reverse, below the eagle's head.

Additional Commentary

Again, if you have any comments about Reeded Edge Half Dollars that I might include in future Reeded Edge Half Newsletters, please email me at **bustcoin1@verizon.net** or send them to:

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JRCS

I strongly recommend that all collectors join JRCS. JRCS publishes it's J R Journal normally about 3 times a year. There is so much you can learn from the many articles that are published, including New Discoveries, Census Information on early silver issues, mint processes, die stage information and more. Membership is just \$25 per year. Anyone interested may contact W. David Perkins at **wdperki@attglobal.net** .